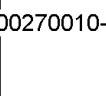
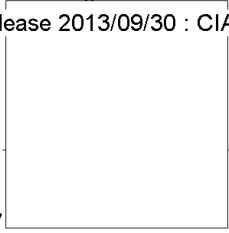


ENCLOSURE 8



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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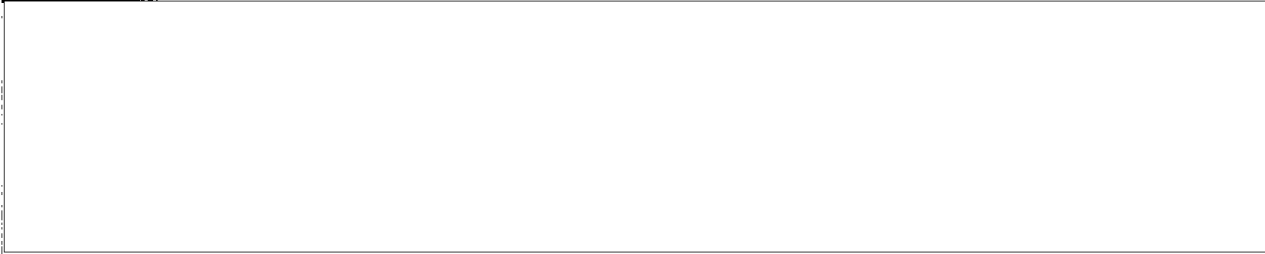
COUNTRY	USSR (Leningrad Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Political Conditions in the USSR	DATE DISTR.	8 December 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	8
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- 3. On page 1, paragraph 1, read (sennoy bazar) for (sennoi bazar).
- 4. On page 2, paragraph 6, accusations responded should probably be read as accusations corresponded. In paragraph 8, read Kats for Katz.

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STATE	#x	ARMY	#x	NAVY	#x	AIR	#x	FBI		AEC				
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 23 OCT 53

SUBJECT Political Conditions in the USSR

NO. OF PAGES 7

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
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ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

DATE OF I

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Reactions to the Arrest of the Kremlin Doctors

1. Several German wives were shopping at the large kolkhoz market called the hay market (sennoi bazar) on the day that the arrest of the Kremlin doctors was announced in the Soviet press. This market is located on Mezhdunarodny Prospekt in the center of Leningrad. In the presence of these German women, a number of Jewish shoppers (some of them were women) were physically attacked by Russians at the market. Hundreds of people were involved. someone
insulted a Jew, starting a fight which led to a general melee. 50X1-HUM
2. The German women who witnessed this incident could not estimate how many Jews were attacked. Hundreds of people surrounded the scene of the fights but that does not mean that all of them were involved. Public fights always attract curious onlookers, especially in such a crowded market as this. 50X1-HUM
3. The police were required to intervene to restore order. Some people, Jews and non-Jews alike, were led away by the police.

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4. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] other
similar public brawls in Leningrad, [redacted] Jews being cursed and attacked
on the streets by Russians. [redacted] the Jews 50X1-HUM
were having such a hard time that they did not dare venture out on the
streets. [redacted] But the disorders ceased after
three or four days. There was no more sign or talk of street clashes and
the Jews reappeared on the streets. 50X1-HUM
5. [redacted]
[redacted] the move by the Soviet Government
had the full support of the Russian population, especially the less educated
elements. [redacted] Russians expressing their approval of the
move. 50X1-HUM
50X1-HUM
6. [redacted] do not [redacted] represent [redacted] any anger about the crimes which the
doctors were accused of. In fact [redacted] not certain that the people 50X1-HUM
believed these charges. But that was not important. These accusations
responded to the strong anti-Semitic feelings which were common among broad
elements of the population.
7. The average Russian disliked the Jews because they occupied so many leading
positions. In particular, a large number of Jews were managers of state
stores and other consumer outlets. It was a popular belief among the
Russians that the Jews had wormed themselves into soft jobs while others
did the work. The charges brought forth in the "doctors' plot" appealed to
the average Russian because he felt that the Jews deserved 50X1-HUMment.
8. The announcement of the "doctors' plot" brought about an intensification
of measures designed to limit the number of Jews in leading positions. For
example, [redacted] KATZ, a Jewish laboratory chief at the institute,
was demoted and replaced by KLARITSKIY. [redacted]
[redacted] all leading Jews in the institute were being demoted to positions
calling for less administrative responsibility. 50X1-HUM
[redacted] similar measures were being carried out throughout Soviet 50X1-HUM
and government. 50X1-HUM
9. This was no new development but simply an intensification of a previous
policy. [redacted]
steps were being taken in the Soviet Union to reduce the influence of Jews
in industry. On the other hand [redacted] no policy which excluded Jewish
scientists and technicians from employment in sensitive jobs in border
areas or transferred them to posts in the interior of the Soviet Union.
Furthermore [redacted] no arrests of Soviet Jews in Leningrad following
the announcement of the "doctors' plot". 50X1-HUM
10. [redacted] not believe that the above measures if carried to a logical and final
conclusion would have seriously affected the efficiency of Institute 49. 50X1-HUM
First of all, Jewish engineers who were affected were not dismissed. They
were simply demoted from posts with administrative responsibilities (chiefs
of departments and laboratories) and were replaced by Russians, usually
strong Party men. However, the Jews continued to do the same work in sub-
stance that they had done before and received about the same pay. And
even if all Jewish engineers had been dismissed, it would have been no
great blow to Institute 49 as Jews occupied no more than 15 percent of the
important posts there. 50X1-HUM

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A Victim of the Lysenko Controversy

11. A Soviet employee by the name of EBERLE was assigned as a liaison man between the German group of specialists and the Soviet laboratories and shops in the institute. He was assigned to this job in the early part of 1947. EBERLE was a doctor of philosophy in biology. He explained that he had formerly been a professor of biology at Leningrad University specializing in hereditary theory. He had been dismissed from his university post because he did not follow the Michurin-Lysenko line. He was excluded from work in the field of biology and had to fall back on his knowledge of German to find a job. Thus it came about that he was assigned to Institute 49 and occupied a position of far less importance than was formerly the case. He received only about 1,200 rub. month in his capacity as a liaison man. 50X1-HUM

12. Professor EBERLE [redacted] was still trying to be reinstated to his professorship and hoped to be successful. He gave no indication that he had given up the convictions which had led to his downfall. 50X1-HUM

Western Radio Broadcasts

13. [redacted] RIAS and other German radio stations. Oddly enough, RIAS was received better in Leningrad [redacted] the location of the stations engaged in jamming RIAS broadcasts is the explanation of this phenomenon. 50X1-HUM

14. [redacted] no Soviet fellow workers spoke [redacted] about their radio listening habits. A Latvian woman, who was one [redacted] interpreter [redacted] regularly listened to a Latvian-language broadcast from abroad. [redacted] the reception was good. [redacted] these broadcasts were a recent innovation and started [redacted] in the summer of 1951. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

15. [redacted] The son of Doctor LANGENBACH attended Leningrad University. He was told by some of his Soviet fellow students that they regularly listened to BBC news broadcasts in the Russian language. They told him that the reception was good. 50X1-HUM

16. There was no shortage in Leningrad stores of radios equipped to receive shortwave programs. However, it was true that few if any models were continuously on sale. If a person was looking for a particular radio model, he had to buy it the minute it was placed on sale as it might not be available again for another six months. Shipments of radios to consumer outlets in a given city occurred sporadically and not on a continuous basis. 50X1-HUM

Soviet Attitudes toward Political Problems

17. [redacted] the average Soviet worker was passive in his attitude and feeling toward the Soviet Government. He did not seem to care who was in the government but only that he had a job and earned enough money to pay for food, shelter and drink. The Soviet Government seemed to arouse neither enthusiasm nor dislike among the majority of the population.

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18. This passivity was a form of fatalism. Even if a Soviet worker knew that his government was no good, he probably did not get excited about it as he expected that any other government would be equally as bad. This fatalism which was characteristic of the average Soviet citizen found expression in everyday life. He lived only for today and expressed no concern about the future. He evidently felt that nothing he did could change the future course of events, so why worry about it. Make the most of the present. 50X1-HUM
19. For example, the German specialists were always complaining about being kept in the Soviet Union against their will, were always asking when they were going home. The Soviets always told [] "Take it easy. You have it good now. You have good pay and a decent apartment. It doesn't matter if you go home tomorrow or a year from now." 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
20. [] this passivity and fatalism is more a product of several centuries of Russian culture than of Soviet society. However, [] the Soviet Government deliberately encouraged this passivity with the exception of one phase of life; that is, the Soviet population was told that no one could eat and better himself if he did not work. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
21. [] mutual distrust which prevailed everywhere in Soviet society. [] illustration of this trait. While [] waiting in line in front of a store, s[] 50X1-HUM approached by a Soviet woman who told her that she had worked in Germany during the war. The Soviet woman described how much she had liked life in Germany, especially the prosperity and cleanliness she found 50X1-HUM
22. Several days later [] standing in a line and the same woman was several feet ahead. A second Soviet woman asked [] about life in Germany, and obviously did not believe [] answers. [] said that her acquaintance of several days ago could verify her statements as she had been in Germany. Whereupon, the latter denied vehemently that she had ever seen [] or that she had ever been in Germany. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
23. After her shopping trip was over, [] was approached by the first acquaintance who told her that she did not dare admit in front of her fellow countrymen that she had been in Germany and had liked what she had seen. Such behavior could send her to Siberia. She begged [] not to mention a word of their conversation to any other Soviet citizen. 50X1-HUM
24. [] rumors regarding resistance activities in the Soviet Union []
[]
[] there was some open resistance in the Soviet Union but that it was insignificant. Members of an underground organization scattered anti-government leaflets in Leningrad streets and streetcars []
[]
25. On several occasions during 1950 and 1951 when butter was not available in Leningrad state stores, it was rumored that partisans had attacked freight trains in the Ukraine and thus had prevented the shipment of butter to Leningrad. 50X1-HUM
26. Stalin was apparently respected and loved by the Soviet youth, especially by Komsomol members. However, other Soviet acquaintances apparently believed that Stalin had distorted Lenin's policies for the worse and that many of Lenin's ideas had not been carried out. They also complained

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that Stalin, unlike Lenin, had no contact with the masses. They could not explain why Stalin did not come to Leningrad, for example, and indicated their disapproval of his seclusion. Lenin was greatly admired by the Soviet population, as were his policies expressed in his written works.

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27.

[redacted] the inhabitants of that city expressed most frequent criticism of the fact that recent price cuts were not as effective as had been expected and that the government had not brought about a restoration of the prewar living standard as it had promised. Open criticism of these conditions could be heard almost every day.

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28.

The Soviet population also disapproved strongly of the compulsory nature of state loans and of the large sums which they had to contribute. The average Soviet seemed to be convinced that money contributed to state loans would never be seen again. [redacted] the recent steps taken by the Soviet Government to reduce the size of state loans will be widely applauded in the USSR. In fact, this step is a recognition by the government that the state loans were most unpopular. It would never have made such a move if it were not absolutely necessary.

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29.

[redacted] no complaints from Soviet citizens concerning other aspects of life in the USSR such as police repression, the dictatorship, et cetera. It is possible that these topics were considered too sensitive to be discussed in the presence of Germans.

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30.

[redacted] the Soviet citizenry was particularly proud of the free medical care which was provided for one and all. This was regarded as a special achievement of the Soviet Government, unique in the entire world. And it must be admitted that although medical care in the Soviet Union is not particularly good [redacted], health conditions have undoubtedly improved considerably since tsarist days.

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31.

The average Soviet was very patriotic. Because of this [redacted] the Soviet claims to prior discovery of inventions and other technological advances have made a very favorable impression on the average [redacted] citizen.

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32.

The German specialists at Institute 49 were frequently told by Soviet employees parroting the Party line that bread would be distributed free of charge to everyone in the Soviet Union within a few years. However [redacted] the average Soviet citizen doubted the possibility of achieving communism. It certainly was not clear to him exactly what communism would mean in terms of his daily life.

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33.

[redacted] the average Soviet citizen did not accept anything appearing in Soviet newspapers as the truth. For example [redacted] heard in stores following the announcement of a monthly plan fulfillment that "those are just statistics and don't bring us any more goods. I want to see an end to these shortages." Or again, whenever a faulty article was placed on sale in a shop, a shopper was likely to remark: "Stakhanov [redacted] been at work again."

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34.

This same doubt was apparent during the 1952 Olympics. The Soviets followed the events there with great interest as they are keen sports enthusiasts.

35.

[redacted] the average Soviet citizen was more inclined to support Soviet foreign policies than domestic policies and was less likely to

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challenge the accuracy of Soviet news stories on international affairs than on domestic affairs. It is obvious that the average Soviet knew nothing about life abroad and therefore was in no position to judge such news stories with a critical mind. Furthermore [redacted] the political victories of the Soviet Government in China and Eastern Europe have convinced the population of the correctness of its foreign policies. The average citizen saw that his country was no longer isolated in world affairs but was allied with many other nations. He also could see that these nations followed the same policies as his government. And finally, the numerous imported consumer products from the satellites which were on sale in Soviet stores presented tangible evidence of the 50X1-HUM these alliances.

36. [redacted] the anti-American propaganda campaign waged in the Soviet press was taken with a grain of salt by many Soviet citizens. The description of conditions in the United States and the labeling of the United States foreign policies were so crude and exaggerated that they could not help but arouse suspicions that this was only propaganda. And furthermore, the Soviet man in the street could observe tangible evidence of American wartime aid in the form of numerous trucks and other articles still in use in Leningrad. Although he did not credit this material with winning the war against Germany, he recognized its quality and the wealth if not the generosity of the United States.
37. Finally, many engineers and other persons who had access to technical journals and other publications from the West must have realized that Soviet descriptions of poverty-stricken American workers were false. The magazine advertisements alone demonstrated the high standard of living in the United States.
38. The average Soviet was very much afraid of the possibility of another world war. He seemed to be convinced that no war could be started by the USSR but could only come about as a result of Western aggression. He therefore regarded the formation of NATO, the establishment of American bases in Europe and the Middle East, and other similar measures taken by the West as aggressive gestures directed toward the Soviet Union. In short, he apparently felt that the United States and its allies were to blame for the present tension between the East and the West.
39. Rumors concerning the imminence of a new world war circulated periodically throughout Leningrad. The result of each rumor was a wave of panic buying. This occurred shortly after the Chinese intervention in the Korean War and also after the shooting down of an American plane over the Baltic Sea. It is noteworthy that the Soviet reporting of the latter incident was so meager that it caused curiosity among the Soviet population, a fear of worse things to come. Other stories such as "the Americans have already selected the A-bombs for us, three for Moscow and four for Leningrad", were also passed around.

Comments: [redacted]

[redacted] Unlike the situation at most enterprises previously considered the Germans at Institute 49 were isolated as a group from the activities and most personnel at the institute. The Soviet personnel with whom they worked had probably been selected by or were under the surveillance of the

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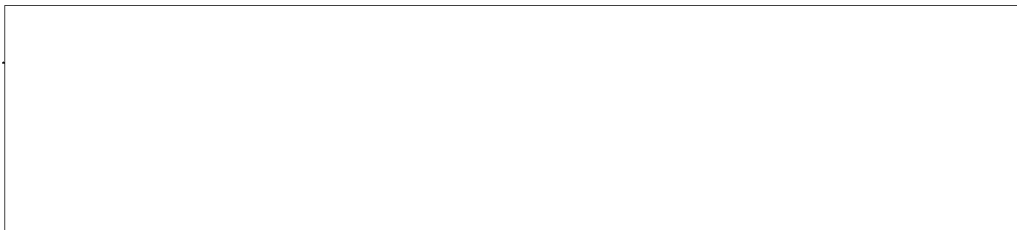
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MVD. [redacted] German [redacted] were subject to the usual restrictions on their freedom of movement and social activities after working hours. 50X1-HUM.

[redacted] the account of street clashes and intimidation of Jews in Leningrad following the announcement of the "doctors' plot". [redacted] demonstrates the popularity of this abortive step, although it is possible that some incidents were police-inspired. 50X1-HUM



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